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TELLOS
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image comics presents...

TELLOS

Created by
Todd Dezago and Mike Wieringo

THE SLEEPING GIANT

STORY
TODD DEZAGO
MIKE WIERINGO
Writer Artist

Rob Stull
Nathan Massengill
Inks

Bongotone's
Paul Mounts
and Ken Wolak
Colors and separations

Kell-O-Graphics
Film output

Special thanks to Humberto Ramos
Alternate cover

The Legend

Tellos is a magikal patchwork world made up of a myriad of different realms, populated by Creatures of Myth and Legend, a Fantastic Land filled with Adventure around every corner...and Danger at every turn! Now, as Malesur's ShadowDemons continue to cast his evil Darkness over Tellos, our Heroes journey to disable his avenues of escape before the time comes for the Final Showdown!

Visit the official Tellos website at
http://www.tellos.com

For Image Comics
Jim Valentino-Publisher
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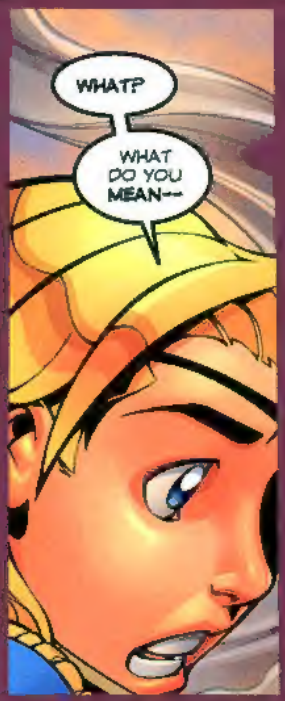
KOJ?
KO-O-OJ?!!
OVER HERE, JAREK.
KOJ!!
I KNEW IT WASN'T TRUE...!
OH, KOJ-- I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
YOU KNOW I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, JARE--

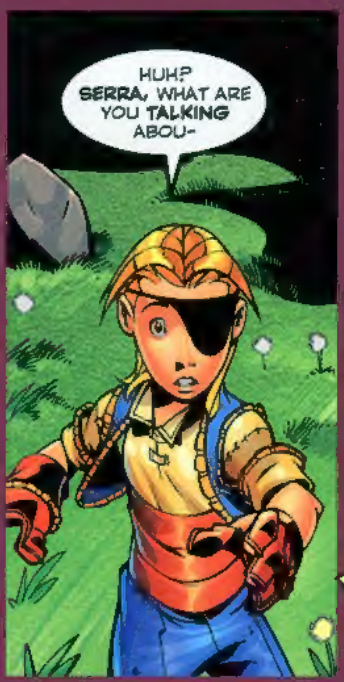
--EVEN WHEN I'M NOT...


WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN--

--KOU...?

KINDA HARD TO HOLD ONTO A GHOST, HUH?
SERRA!!
AND YET YOU'D BE AMAZED AT WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN WE'RE NOT READY TO LET GO...

YOU CAN HOLD ON SO TIGHT...
...WHEN YOU'RE JUST NOT READY TO FACE THE HURT...!


HUH? SERRA, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOU-

WHA--
THRRR

WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING ON TO, JARE?
SERRA!!
WAIT! WHAT'S--

S-KOOOMM!!
--HAPPENING...?

UH OH!
WHATSAMATTER, SNOT? NO MORE FRIENDS TO COME AND SAVE YOU...?!
WHAT WAS SHE SAYING...? I GUESS YOU DIDN'T HOLD ON TIGHT ENOUGH...?!
WELL, THEY'RE IN MY GRASP NOW!! AND I NEVER LET GO!!

--WAKE UP, JAREK!
STAY QUIET! KOJ SAYS THEY'RE ALL AROUND US...
GRAB YOUR SWORD.

I COULD **SMELL** THEM A WAYS OFF...BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE SCENT...HORSES ARE RESTLESS...
...AND THE CRICKETS STOPPED **CHIRRING** A FEW **SECONDS** AGO.
LET'S GO. SLOW AND STEADY.

I DON'T HEAR ANY--
shhhh.

THERE!
I SEE THEM! THERE! IN THE TREES!
TH-THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM! KOJ, D'YA THINK THEY'RE MALESUR'S SHADOWDEMONS? THAT TOM TOLD US ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW, JARE...
WE'RE SURROUNDED!
ON GUARD, BOYS! BACKS IN! STAY TOGETHER! WE DON'T HAVE--

HIN--
The foreboding Citadel of the sinister MALESUR--
Where deep within this Tower's fetid bowels--
YEAH... YEAAAAHHH...
--a bizarre and arcane ritual takes place!
SEND IT TO ME! SEND IT ALL TO ME!
SEND ME THE POWER--
--MY SHADOWDEMONS!!
"GO OUT AND SPREAD MY DARKNESS OVER EVERY INCH OF TELLOS!
"DON'T LEAVE ANY KINGDOM OR CRAPPY LITTLE HAMLET UNTOUCHED!!
"I WANT IT ALL!!

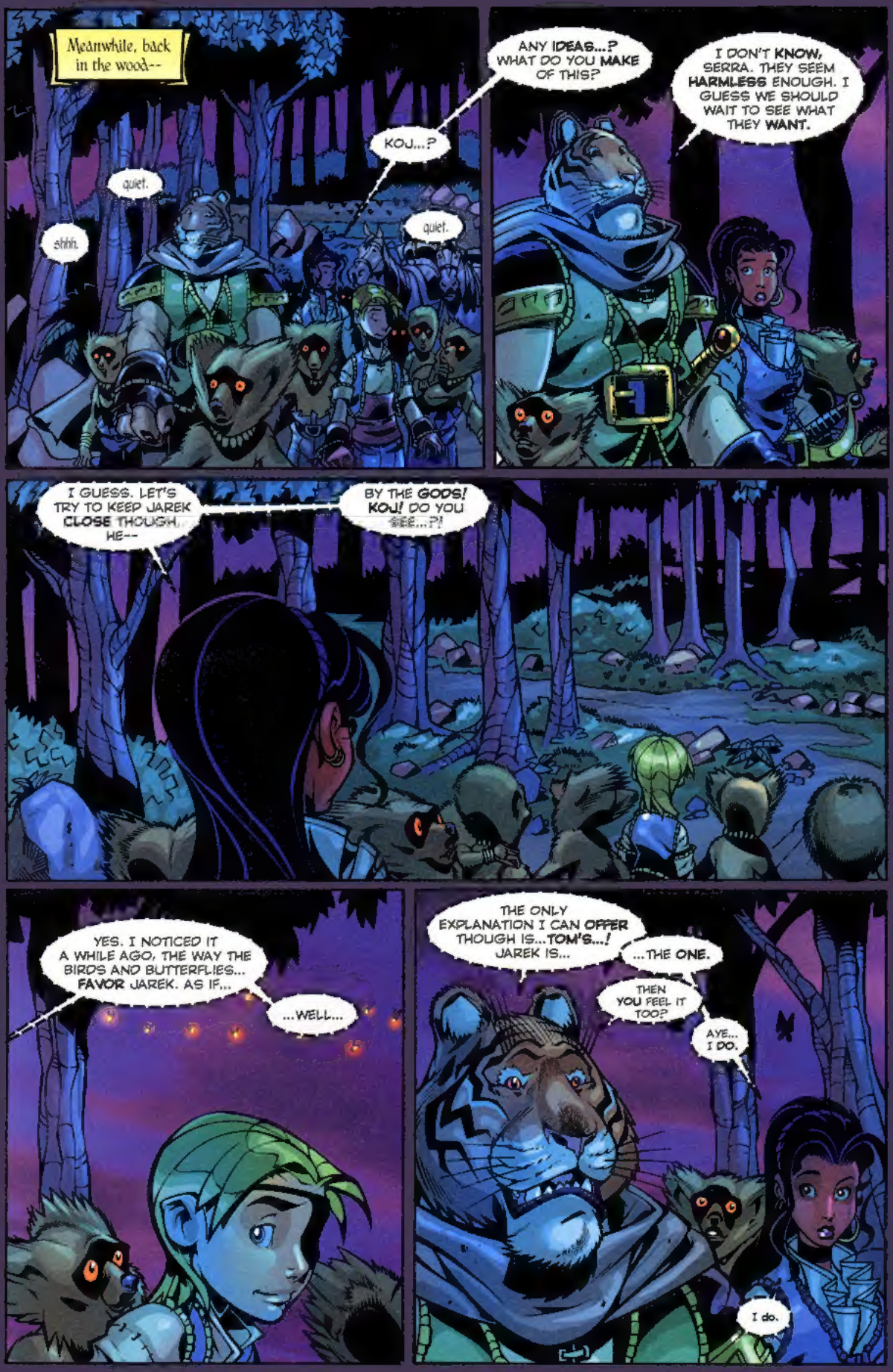
"DRAIN THE SOUL FROM EVERY PATHETIC CREATURE IN THIS STUPID, MISERABLE WORLD!!

"GATHER THE POWER--
"--AND SEND IT TO ME!!!

"BECAUSE. I. KNOW!!!
"ALL MY POWER COMES FROM JUST KNOWING...
"BECAUSE I KNOW WHO I AM AND WHERE I CAME FROM! AND THAT STUPID BRAT STILL DOESN'T HAVE A FREAKIN' CLUE!

"AND BEFORE THAT LITTLE SNOT HAS A CHANCE TO PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, I'LL HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO DESTROY HIM!!"

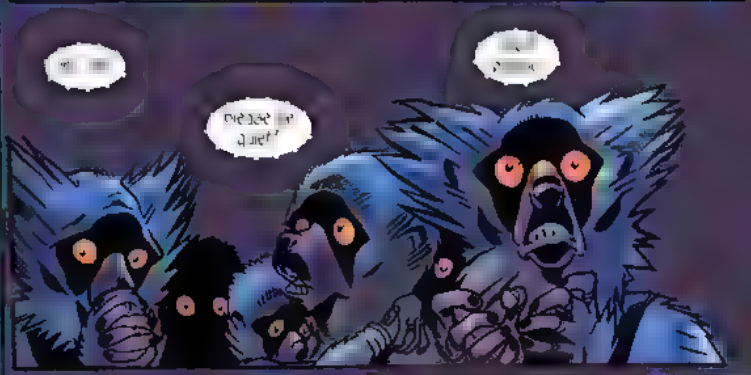
AND ONCE I'VE KILLED JAREK, I'LL OWN THIS WORLD...!
...AND THE NEXT...!


Meanwhile, back in the wood--
shhh.
quiet.
KOJ...?
quiet.
ANY IDEAS...? WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, SERRA. THEY SEEM HARMLESS ENOUGH. I GUESS WE SHOULD WAIT TO SEE WHAT THEY WANT.
I GUESS. LET'S TRY TO KEEP JAREK CLOSE THOUGH. HE--
BY THE GODS! KOJ! DO YOU SEE...?!
YES. I NOTICED IT A WHILE AGO, THE WAY THE BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES... FAVOR JAREK. AS IF...
...WELL...
THE ONLY EXPLANATION I CAN OFFER THOUGH IS...TOM'S...! JAREK IS...
...THE ONE.
THEN YOU FEEL IT TOO?
AYE... I DO.
I do.

A long time ago...
that is the tower of the sleeping giant. he has been a-slumber since the beginning of time.
he dreams it all in his giant head
he dreams all of this. he dreams you and he dreams me
we lemms were chosen long ago, to protect his sleep, to guard his dreaming

nor should he wake up, the dream would end...
we all would perish
why we ask you quiet. why we ask you to quiet go

A SLEEPING GIANT...?! THAT DREAMS THIS WHOLE WORLD?! YOU DON'T REALLY BELIE-

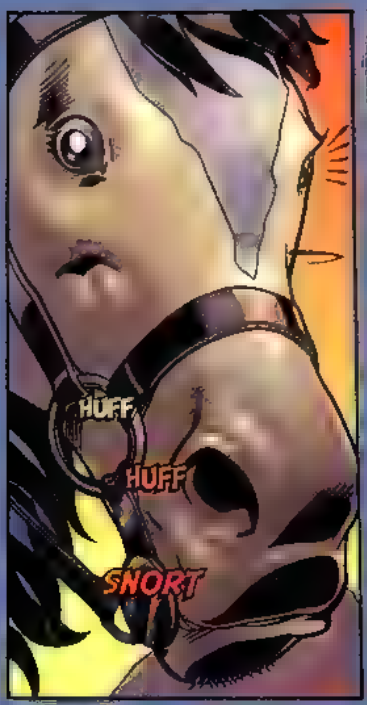

please be quiet!

JAREK

BUT KOJ...! THAT'S GOTTA BE THE DUMB--OW!
JAREK!

WE BEG YOUR PARDON. WE DIDN'T KNOW OF THIS AND YOUR GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
WE WILL GO NOW
peace and silence
WE GO ?
WE GO
A SLEEPING GIANT DREAMING ALLA THIS...GIMME A BREAK.
WE'LL RIDE OUT OF SIGHT OF THE LEMMS AND THEN LOOP WAY AROUND TO COME AT THE SPIRE FROM THE OTHER SIDE...NO NEED TO RILE THE LITTLE GUYS
THEY MAY HAVE SOME STRANGE BELIEFS, BUT CONSIDERING SOME OF THE THINGS WE'VE SEEN LATELY...
...I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE SOME PRETTY STRANGE THINGS MYSELF!

CAREFUL. EVEN THOUGH TOM SAYS THAT WE'RE HIDDEN TO MALESUR'S MAGIKS BECAUSE WE CARRY THE AMULET, DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULD LET OUR GUARD DOWN
THIS SPIRE IS JUST ONE OF THE FIVE HE HAS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE VARIOUS REALMS OF TELLOS, ALL MAGIKALLY CONNECTED TO HIS CITADEL, EACH ONE A POSSIBLE "BACK DOOR" FOR HIM TO ESCAPE THROUGH.
NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT!
I WISH WE COULD UNLEASH THE D'JINN AND POP THAT UGLY FREAK RIGHT NOW! TO HIN WITH MALESUR!! I'D--
PATIENCE, BUDDY-- NOT UNTIL WE FIND THE "OTHER"...TOM SAID THAT THE D'JINN WOULDN'T HAVE THE POWER TO DEFEAT MALESUR WITHOUT THE ADDED STRENGTH OF ANOTHER'S WILL! YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE...
BUT FOR NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR LETTING OGE K'TON WRECK THE ARCHITECTURE.
SERRA, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND...?
MY PLEASURE! AS OFFICIAL AMULET CARRIER, I WAS WONDERING IF I'D EVER GET TO DO SOMETHING


HUFF
HUFF
SNORT

THE HORSES! SOMETHING'S SPOOKING TH--
NEEEEEHHHEHEHEHEH!

SHADOWJUMPERS!! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!!

SHING!
SHING!
SERRA! THE AMULET...!
I'VE GOT IT-- DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET IT TO--

JAREK!! THIS WAY! WE HAVE TO GET TOGETHER!
CLANG!
SHING!

SHNIKK!
RIGHT WELL.
I'M A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW!

CHING!
NO! SERRA--I CAN'T!! TOM SAID--
SHING!
KOJ! YOU TAKE IT!! YOU'RE CLOSER! I CAN--

FORGET WHAT TOM SAID! WE'RE SERIOUSLY OUTNUMBERED HERE! AND THERE'S MORE OF THEM SLIDING FROM THE SHADOWS EVERY SECOND!

KEEP FIGHTING!! WE CAN HANDLE WHATEVER THEY-- HUH?!
WHO--?
WHA--?
OH, YOU CAN, HUH?!--

I DON'T THINK SO.
MALESUR

K-CHAAAAAK
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LITTLE SNOT!
YOU, MY DEAR HINDERS...
THOOM!
...ARE IN WAY...
KRAAK!
...OVER...
...YOUR HEADS!!
CHOOOM!

YOU LEARNED FROM THE OLD TURTLE OR LIZARD OR WHATEVER HE WAS... THAT THESE SPIRES WERE MY DOORWAYS OUT OF HIN--
--WELL, THEY'RE ALSO MY DOORWAYS IN....!
WELCOME TO HIN, LOSERS!!
I NEED THE KID.
KILL THE TIGER AND THE TEASE.
BRING ME THE AMULET.

OBOY, THIS IS NOT LOOKING GOO--

HUKK!
UNGHH!
SHUKK!
SHUNK!

WHAT ? WHO'S.

OTHER SHADOW-JUMPERS ?

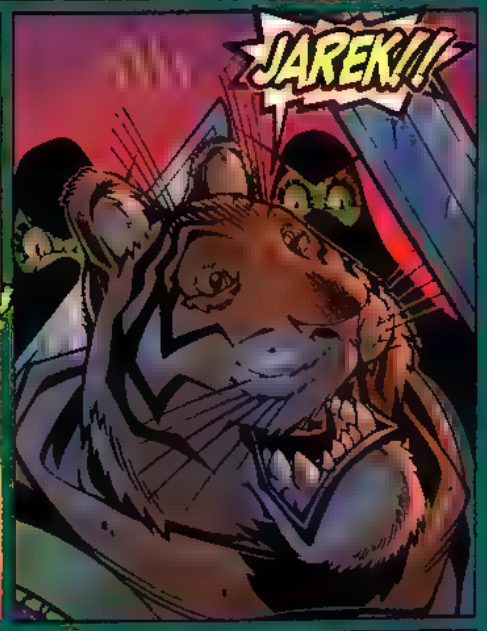
IT'S OKAY, SER--IT'S US!
WHAT'S GOING ON HE--

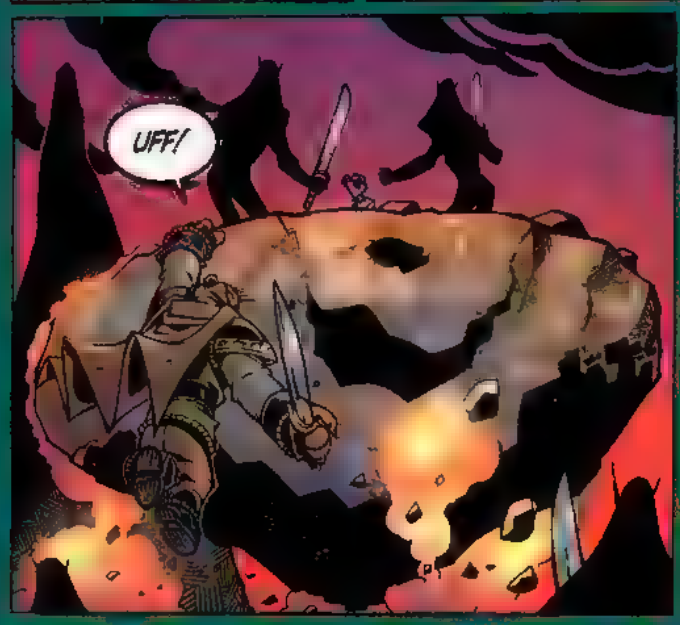
HAWKE!? RIKK!? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

WE NEVER WENT TO THE OTHER SPIRE TOM TOLD US TO STICK WITH YOU GUYS, STAY OUT OF SIGHT! WE'RE YOUR BACK-UP!
VERY SNEAKY. VERY COOL.
CHING!
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA MATTER A BIT--

"--IF WE DON'T FIND A WAY TO GET THIS AMULET TO JAREK!!!"
CHING!
CHING!

TIME TO COME WITH ME, BRAT! I WANT SOME PRIVACY FOR OUR LITTLE ONE-ON-ONE...!
SWAK!


JAREK!!!


UFF!

KOU-- WHADDA WE DO?
SLISH!
SWAK!

WE'VE GOT TO GET DOWN THERE! SERRA'S ALL ALONE DOWN THERE! BUT WE'RE TOO HIGH TO JUMP--

OH, YOU WON'T HAVE TO JUMP--
--I PLAN TO KICK YOUR LIFELESS CORPSES OVER THE SIDE!
HUH?

BUT, FORGET ABOUT HER! SHE'S DEAD!
NO, I MEAN, REALLY. SHE IS REALLY DEAD!
THE SHADOWJUMPERS WILL TAKE THE AMULET FROM HER DEAD BODY. SHE WAS ALWAYS EXPENDABLE, NEVER MEANT ANYTHING...
...AND YOU'RE NEXT!

HAVE AT, THEN, FIEND! YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME TO--

THROUGH YOU...?
PINE...!
SHRRAK!
UNGH!
KOJ!

NO!!
KOJ! NOOOO!

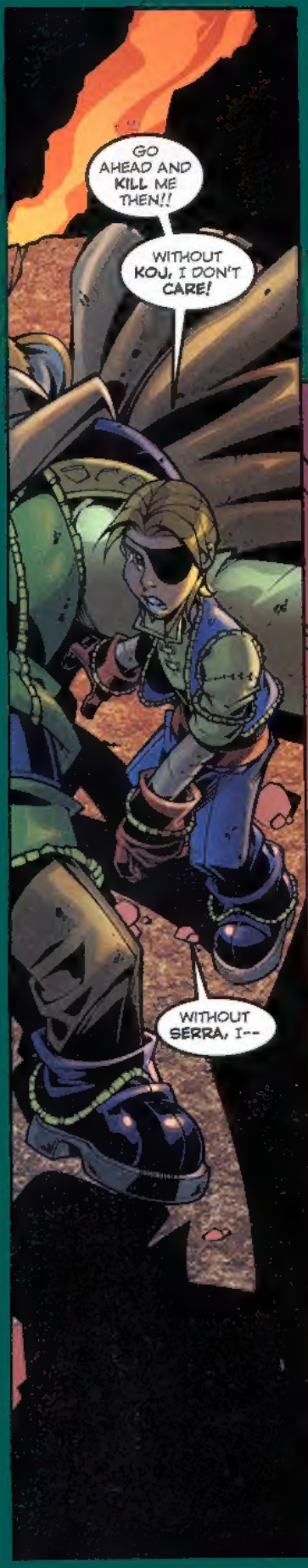
IT'S OVER, YA LITTLE SNOT! YOU'RE DONE! I'VE WON!
NOT THE AMULET, THOUGH... ALL I EVER NEEDED WAS YOU...YOUR BODY, YOUR HEAD...

BUT I GUESS YOU NEVER KNEW THAT, DIDJA?
AH, WELL-- C'MON, KID...HEH HEH HEH HEH...YOU'RE MY RIDE OUTTA--

GO TO HIN, YOU UGLY SLIMEBOAT!! YOU KILLED MY FRIENDS!!!
YOU KILLED MY FRIENDS AND I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!!!

HEH.

YA NEVER CHANGE, DO YA JERK? YOU KEEP ON FIGHTING RIGHT UP 'TIL THE END...!
WELL, IT'S THE END. YOU'RE DEAD!



Continued in

9!! ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER!

TOM BANCROFT
00
#HUM

Okay, Gang!! This letters page is all about...your letters!! You love writin' 'em and we love gettin''em! So let's get to 'em!!

Dear Todd, Mike and **Tellos** Crew,

Let me say first that this is the first time I have ever felt compelled to write a letter to a comic, and I cannot think of a better title to make this debut.

I have not been a real comics fan for very long (about 2-3 years). Up until now the only titles I have been seriously interested in have been DC's **Batman Beyond** and Mike Allred's great book **The Atomics.** But last Thursday, as I was waiting for the new comics to be put on display, I was introduced to **Tellos** for the first time. I noticed issue #7, or rather, it noticed me, as the cover art practically leaped off the stand. After I read it, I was instantly hooked. I wanted more Tellos and I wanted it NOW. Fortunately, I have since been able to find all of the issues except #4. I don't know how I missed those issues, but rest assured that Tellos will not be overlooked again!

You guys have truly created a fantastic world with a wonderful assortment of characters. Mike, the artwork just knocks me out! It is pure eye candy, thanks in no small part to Paul and Ken's colors and Rob and Rick's inks. Todd, your stories are on par with the art. Brad's "dude" remarks and the Frogsoldiers' "th's" crack me up! All in all, this comic pulls you in and doesn't let go.

Here, however, is the real reason I like this book: It's fun. These books are called COMIC books, after all. While that does not necessarily mean side-splitting laughter, I believe that there should be a sense of fun. This book focuses on the magic and adventure instead of the violence (althought there is that, too) with some lighthearted moments in between. It is an absolute joy to read.

Please keep your quality standards high. You've gotten off to a great start. I will continue to be "by thy side".

John "Figaro" Norris
Lnorris@sc.rr.com
p.s. If you want to print this letter, please do so. If not, well...

Oh, just one question. Why, in "The Legend" on the inside cover, is "magical" spelled with a "k"? (inquiring minds want to know.)

*John--**Batman Beyond,** huh...? Well then you might be thrilled to know that my good pal and **Batman Beyond** Artist Extraordinaire, **CRAIG ROUSSEAU,** is currently working on a two-part **Tellos** tale due out early next year!! It's a wild, rollicking story providing answers to some of the **Tellos** mysteries and clues to what's yet to come! Mike and I are stoked to have Craig pencilling this project, especially since it features...uh, well, let's just say it features a couple of the characters that survive **Tellos 10...!!***

Oh, and I spell it with a 'k' to give it an ancient or archaic look. That's all.--Todd

Dear Amuletters,

Just picked up issue seven and let me tell you it's the best issue yet! It's good to see an issue like this, full of playfulness, battle, and lots of little hints at further issues. Such as: when Rikk saw Jarek on the dragon he thought he looked like a…(a dragon, maybe?). So how about a few questions.

1. What exactly is Malesur changing into?

2. Who's been leaking info to Malesur?

3. What was the message for Serra from the fairie?

I saw a picture of the Logo for Gorilla Comics yesterday. Could it have been drawn by Mike? Anyway, can't wait for issue eight and I've only got one request:

PLLLEEEAAASSSE print my letter in your comic?

Fourth-time writer,

Bobby Taylor

Bobby~~and THANK YOU for writing four times!! Answers to your questions...?

1. Well, this issue should provide the answer to that, eh? (Wait'll ya see him in the next Tellos!!)

2. Although many readers have already guessed, don'tcha wanna be surprised...?

3. You're asking too many questions...you need to be patient! :)

And finally, will we print your letter...? Um, sorry, no.

Hello **Tellos** Team,

A few months ago I, being frustrated with the comic books I normally read never ever coming out on time, picked up your book because the cover art caught my eye and wow!

I love your book. I love the story because it's captivating, but in a light hearted sweet way and nothing like the rest of the morbid, half-naked girlies running around, gory crap so prevalent now. Yick! I have almost all the issues except #1, which from reading the rest of the **Tellos** mail is hard to find. But I am going to the San Diego Comic Con in July so I am hopeful I will find it there. I hope to see you guys there too.

And by the way, when are you going to make a statue of Rikk? He's so cute!!

And a suggestion, please come out with toys us little people can afford, and please keep coming out semi on time. Your all I've got anymore!!

Lots of Love, Alexandra

Rikk!! They all love Rikk!

*We'll do what we can, Alexandra---and thanks for your letter! The first wave of **Tellos** figures from Palisades and Dynamic Forces will be out in November and feature Koj, Jarek, Serra, and a FrogSoldier! (and, if I do say so myself, they look fabulous!!) And if they're popular enough, the second wave will feature Hawke, Rikk, Malesur, and possibly Brad or Thomestharustra.*

Hey Todd and Mike;

Congratulations on creating a truly wonderful comic book with incredible possibilities. **Tellos** has quickly become one of my favorite books. The art, story and characterization are wonderful. You have done a tremendous job and I hope that you continue to produce Tellos for a long time to come.

Nate
Appleton, WI

Thanks, Nate!! (I had to print this 'cause Dani the faerie's from Appleton...okay, now will you let go of my nose...?)

Dear Mike and Todd,

If ever a comic deserved praise and admiration, it would be Tellos. The same holds true for the both of you as well. A signed copy of **Tellos #5** was the last thing I expected to be waiting for me when I pulled into Aruba a few days ago! I opened the package with some confusion, as I explained to a friend that I did not know anyone from New York. He then shot me a bewildered look when I pulled the comic and letter from the envelope and let out a startled laugh. I had been wondering about the outcome of the contest since I got underway in May, and had not expected to find out until I returned to my homeport in July! While disappointed that none of my postcards were pulled during the contest, I think that it is remarkable that you regarded all of those who tried. I suppose, in a way, we all won!

Tellos has quickly risen to become my favorite comic. Both of you put in so much time and talent, and it shows, through the richness and depth of Tellos, to your interaction with your fans. I look forward to the growing success of Tellos, and (whether on sea or land) promise to be there every step of the way! Fair winds and following seas to you both, and to Tellos!

By Thy Side,

Scott Spaid (a.k.a. Kiyote)

"The biggest Tellos fan in the U.S. Coast Guard!"

Thanks, Scott! It was our pleasure!!

Okay, everybody! Here's the drill:

CONTEST! CONTEST! CONTEST!

You've seen her advertised in **PREVIEWS** and the back of **TELLOS 7!!** The lovely **SERRA** Statue featuring Tellos' toughest Pirate Captain CAN NOW BE YOURS!!!

Send in postcards only (the funnier the better!) with your name and address to the address above! Drawing to be held on August 23rd (Terry Austin's Birthday!) and chosen by, well, why not...Inking Legend, TERRY AUSTIN!! Four Runners-up will receive signed copies of Tellos 8! One Lucky Winner GETS THE GIRL!!

Good luck!!
By thy side~~
Todd

APE NATION

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POUNDING MY CHEST

A few days ago I was reading something that Warren Ellis had posted somewhere, evoking some of the more negative aspects of attending a comics convention as a "professional" or "guest." While much of what he wrote *does* happen, I tend to think that this is all more a matter of perspective. Eternal optimist that I am, I thought I would take this "Pounding My Chest" opportunity to offer up some of the positives, the first one obviously being that ***conventions rock!!!***

Now I realize that there are still a lot of people out there who think that the life of a comic book writer or artist is a pretty glamorous one. That we're all rich and adored 24/7 by our own individual legion of fans, waiting for us outside our front doors to see what shirt we're wearing today... but that just isn't so. The *big* comic book money disappeared sometime around 1994 (just as I was getting in) and we all live basically solitary lives, working quietly in our homes at the most inconvenient hours. Many of us don't even remember what a social life is. We do comics for the simple reason that we love them.

Just like you.

And so, having the chance to get out into the real world, to meet and talk with so many of you, to hear what you like or dislike about our work... Man, that's the *best*!! We want to know what *you* think, what other comics you read – we read 'em *too*!! We want to know if we were able to surprise you or thrill you, if, through the characters, we were able to touch you in some way... Did the story make you think? Did the art fill you with wonder...? We want to know!

No, not every comics professional shares these views. And there are a few in the industry who look at this as just another job. But after hanging with my fellow Gorillas at the conventions in San Diego, and HeroesCon in Charlotte (thanks again, Shelton!), I gotta tell ya, these guys – Kurt, Stuart, Karl, Tom, Mark, George, Mike and Barry – they *thrill* in meeting readers, get *excited* by your enthusiasm... they're in it 'cause they truly love comics...

Just like you.

Thank you –

Ook ook!

TODD!

HOW GORILLA COMICS WAS ALL MY IDEA.

by Mike Wieringo.

So there I was, having my daily soak in a tub-full of crisp, cool one hundred dollar bills when it hit me: Why not spread the wealth...?

Sure, I had it all: A *mega-selling* book, a 40-room mansion, a fleet of limos, beautiful women falling all over themselves to be with me, more money than I could ever count and millions and millions of adoring fans. But deep down, something was missing. What I needed to make it all complete was a bunch of fellow creators that I could pull into my orbit and give them the benefit of my fabulous popularity.

So I called Kurt Busiek, Tom Grummett, Stuart Immonen, Karl Kesel, Barry Kitson, George Pérez and Mark Waid (Todd Dezago was already basking in my wonderful glow) and offered them a chance of a lifetime. What else could they say but "Yes!!!!"...?

Now I feel fulfilled, and it's obvious that it shows, because I'm always overhearing the others talk about how I'm "...full of it...".

It's so great to be me.

NEXT MONTH: How Gorilla Comics was All My Idea, by Stuart Immonen.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

TELLOS 9

by Todd Dezago, Mike Wieringo, Rob Stull and Paul Mounts. As the Forces of Darkness grow, and Allies fall nearby, the Final Confrontation between Jarek and Malesur begins...!

SHOCKROCKETS 6

by Kurt Busiek, Stuart Immonen, Wade von Grawbadger and Jeromy Cox. The final battle for the fate of the Earth! Plus: A Superstar flip-book story!

OCTOBER

SECTION ZERO 4

by Karl Kesel, Tom Grummett and Ben DiMagmaliw. Doc Challenger fights to survive in the savage, lost land known only as Ground Zero! And introducing the fiery femme fatale – Lava!

CRIMSON PLAGUE 3

by George Pérez and Tom Smith. Within the Martian catacombs beneath MannaWorks 2, the hunt for Crimson Plague begins. But is DiNA: Simmons the hunted – or the hunter?

EMPIRE 3

by Mark Waid, Barry Kitson, and James Pascoe. He has the whole world in his hands... now find out what Golgoth lost in order to win.

COMING SOON! DON'T MISS: